

A CHUCKLE PER PAGE WHEN YOU

MEET

MERTON

NO. 1

10¢





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

GIANT FLYING PLASTIC JET— NOW ONLY \$1



Yes! Gleaming silver plastic twenty-one inches long! Slashes through the air at 600 scale miles an hour—every second under your complete control.

So life-like that it even SOUNDS like a real jet! So authentic that Pan American Airways has authorized it as an Official Model! And now it is yours complete—with nothing else to buy!—FOR A PRICE SO LOW THAT UNTIL TODAY IT WAS ENTIRELY IMPOSSIBLE.

No Fuel! No Danger!
Yet It Flies 600
Scale Miles An Hour!

Simply attach the U-Control Line as we show you to the left wing. Then suspend the model from this control line, and begin slowly to swing it through the air. Before your astonished eyes, you will see one of the most thrilling aerodynamic sights of your entire life!

This model is perfectly designed for high-speed flight! As soon as it picks up power from the motion of your hand, it will lift up its nose, its wings will begin to cut through the air, it will flash upward and streak ahead of you! As you give it more and more line it will turn wider and wider, fly faster and faster! You have perfect control every second of its flight! You can fly it in circles only five feet wide, or you can take it outdoors and fly it in gigantic arcs

one hundred feet wide—the size of an entire city lot—so fast that your eye can hardly follow it—BUT EVERY SECOND UNDER YOUR COMPLETE CONTROL!

You can make this plane soar upward—stall at fantastic heights—dive towards the ground—and then pick up speed and flash upward again in a breath-taking rescue! You can make the engines on your plane scream like fighters at bursts of 600 scale miles an hour! You can make them purr softly at cruising speed—hear them roar again as your plane picks up altitude and speed!

You can spiral this magnificent model down into a perfect landing! You can fly two or more planes in perfect formation! You can have jet races! You can have an entire fleet of breath-taking models flown by every member of your family—and you can have them all for only \$1.00 a piece plus 25¢ postage & handling—LESS THAN ONE-FIFTH THE PRICE YOU'D EXPECT TO PAY!

CHECK THESE INCREDIBLE FEATURES!

All plastic! Almost twenty-one inches long, six inches high, twenty-one inches in wingspan!

Full brilliant official colors! Silver engines and wings—red, white and blue body! All colors already printed on the plastic! Nothing to paint! No chance of a mistake!

Fits together in twenty easy minutes—without glue, without tools! All parts already die-cut for you! All colors already printed on the plastic! Nothing to cut! Nothing to shape! Nothing to paste!

So incredibly beautiful that it is authorized by Pan American Airways and Douglas Aircraft! Try it completely at our risk—TODAY!

FLYING JET, DEPT 1W-9

62 W. 47th Street, New York 36, N.Y. Room 206

Send me your DOUGLAS DC-8 JETLINER

all-plastic flying model entirely at your risk!

I am enclosing only \$..... in check, money

order or cash for models. I understand that

the price of these models during this special

introductory offer is only \$1.00 plus 25¢ for

postage and handling charges for each model.

I must be delighted with this—OR I MAY

SIMPLY RETURN IT TO YOU WITHIN ONE

WEEK FOR EVERY CENT OF MY MONEY

BACK.

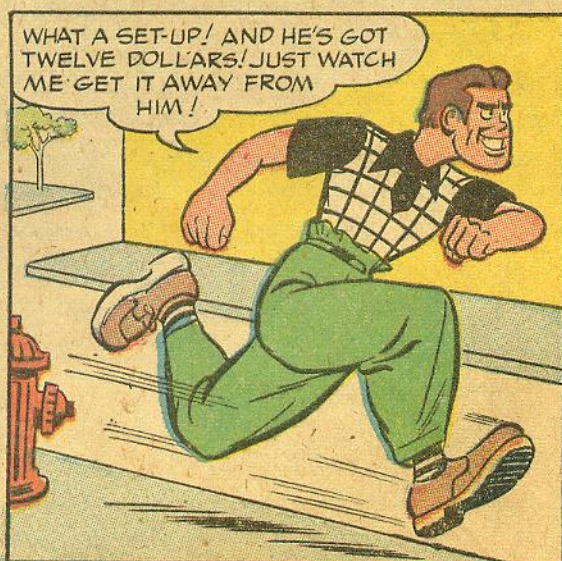
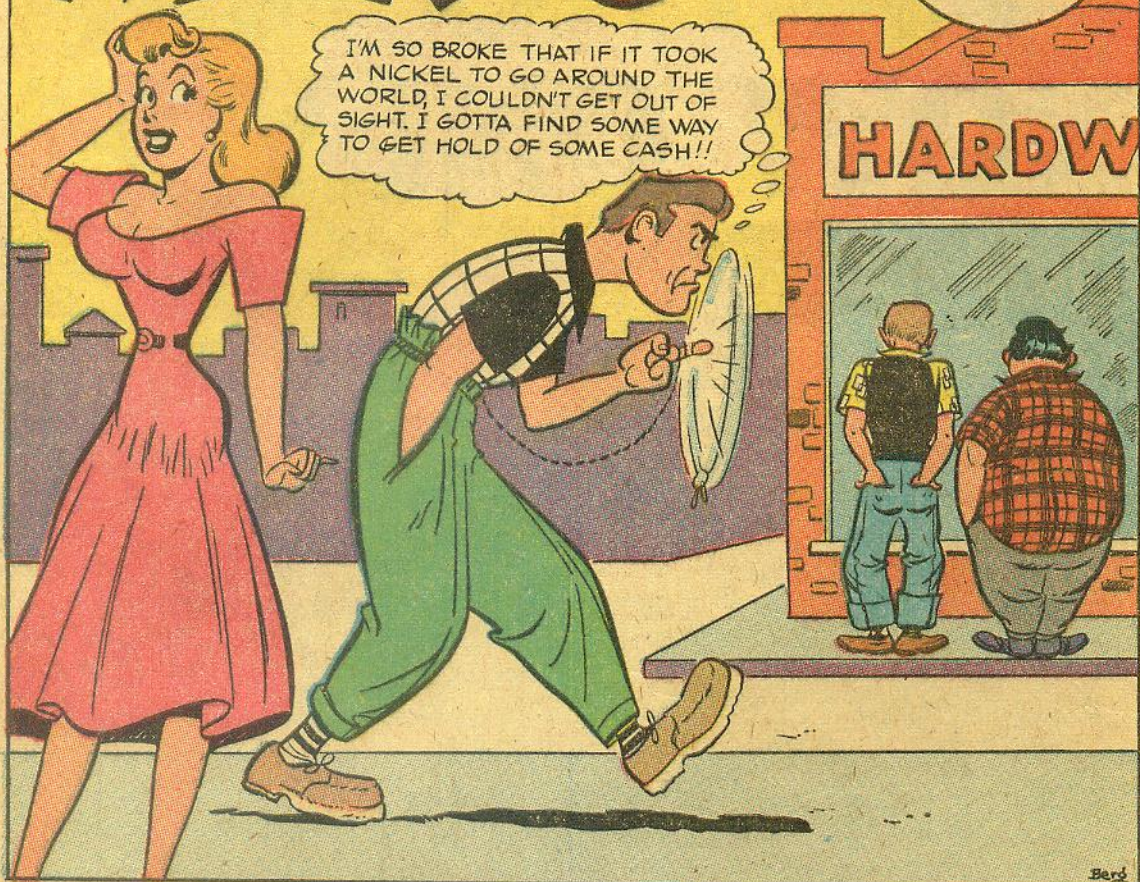
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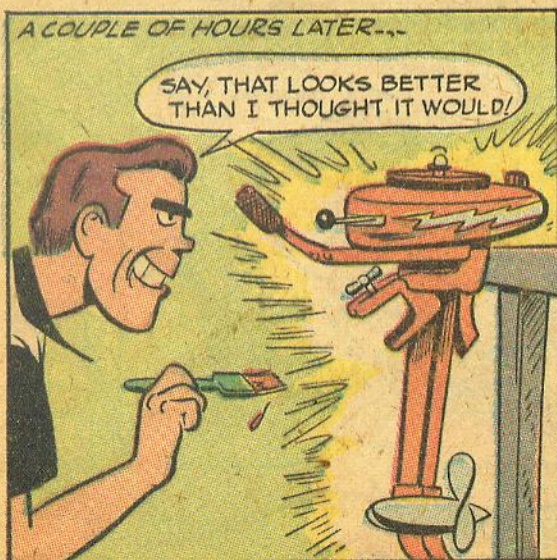
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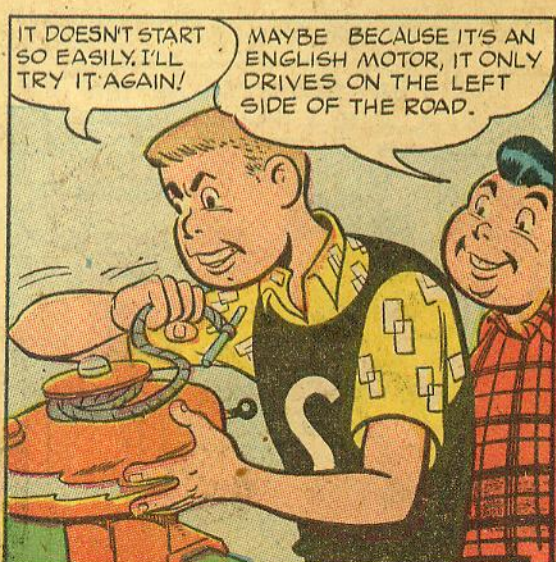
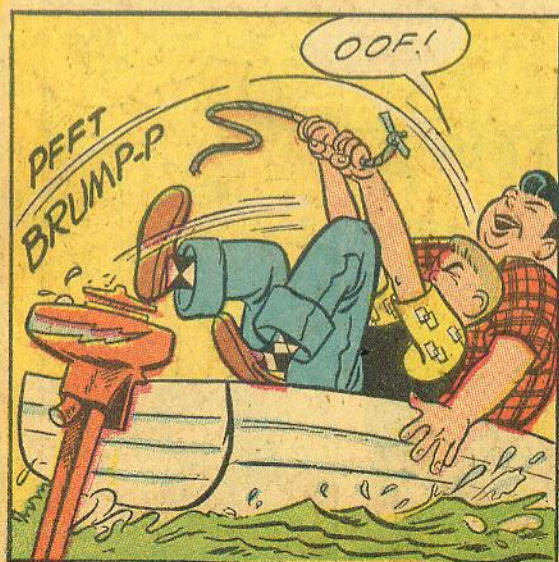
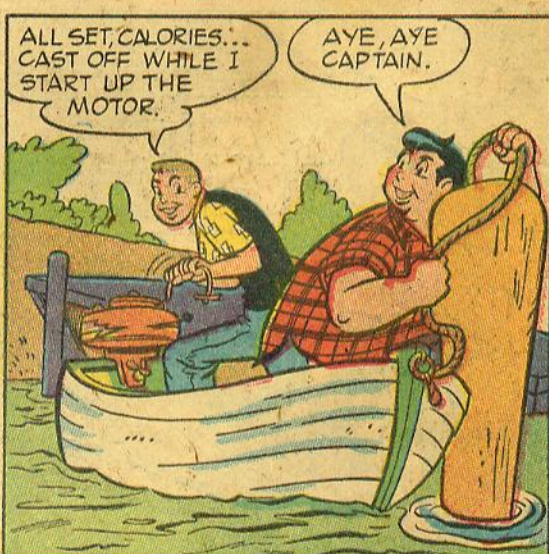
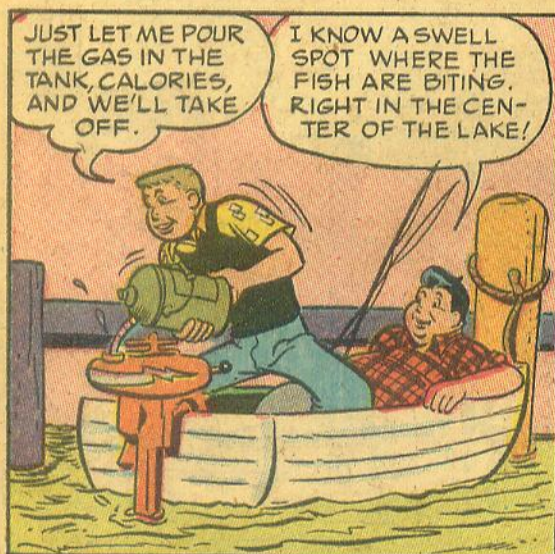
City..... Zone..... State.....

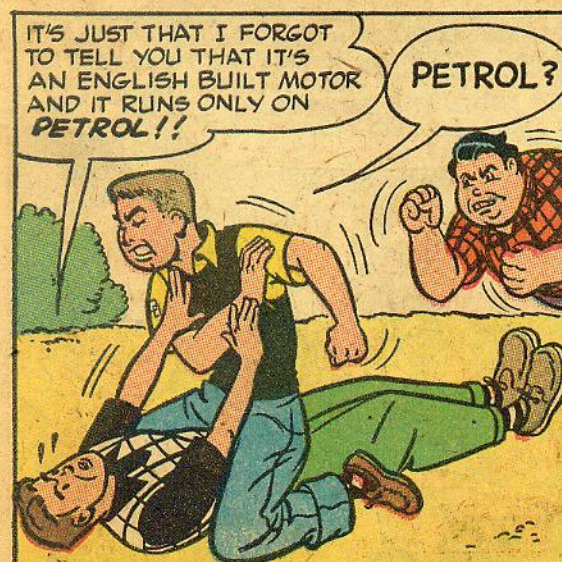
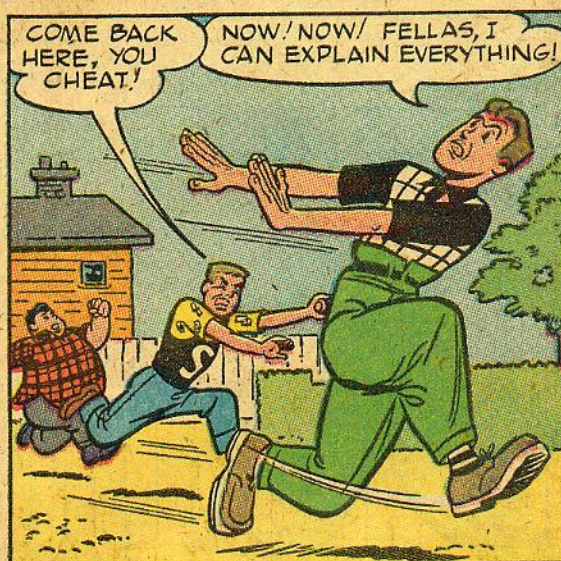
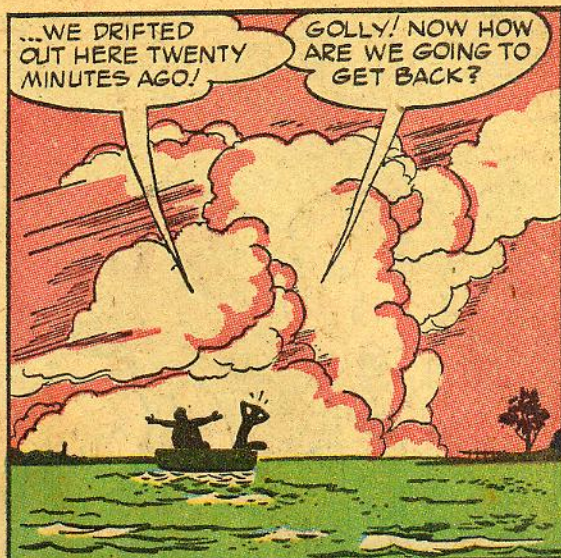
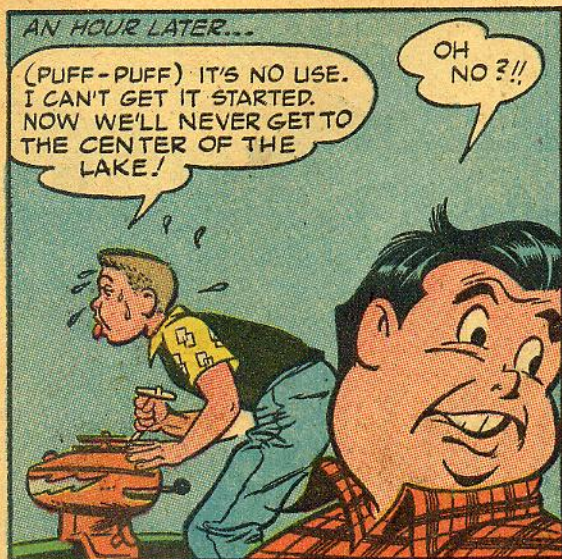
MERTON

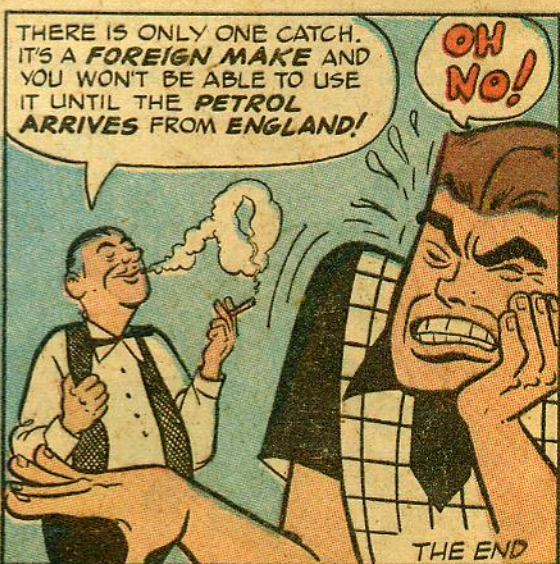
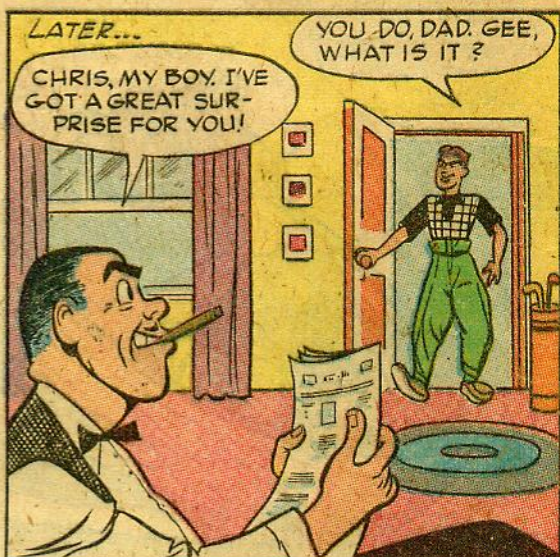
"Foreign Make"











MERTON

"what goes up!"

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MERTON MUDDLE IS YOURS? I DON'T SEE YOUR INITIALS CARVED ON HIM!

I HAVEN'T GOT MY BRAND ON HIM YET... BUT I WILL!



Bend

YOU DO AND I'LL SCRATCH MY INITIALS ON YOU!

IZZATSO?

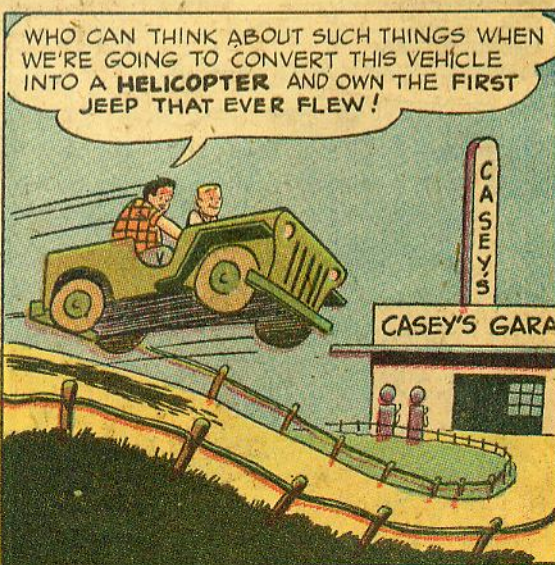
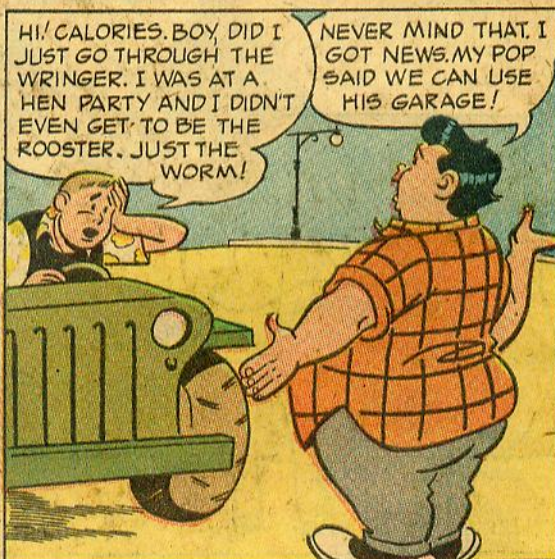
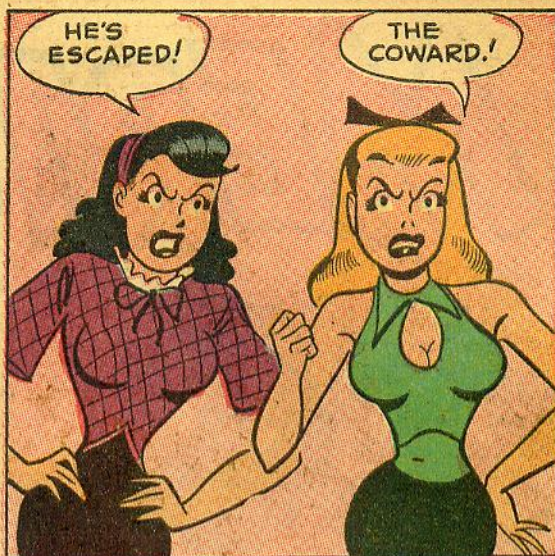
LADIES! LADIES!

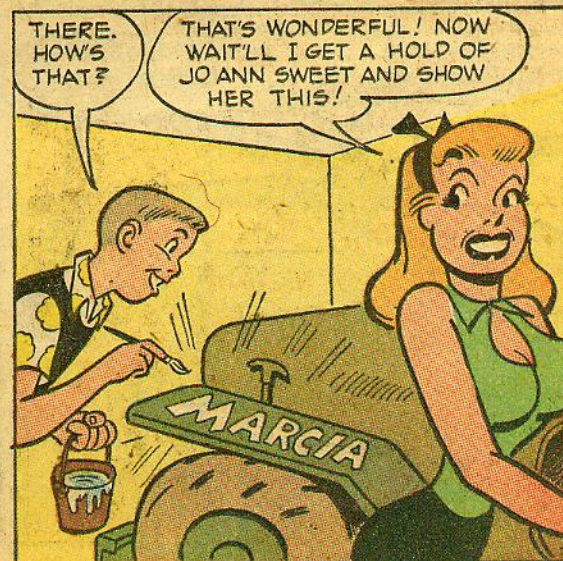
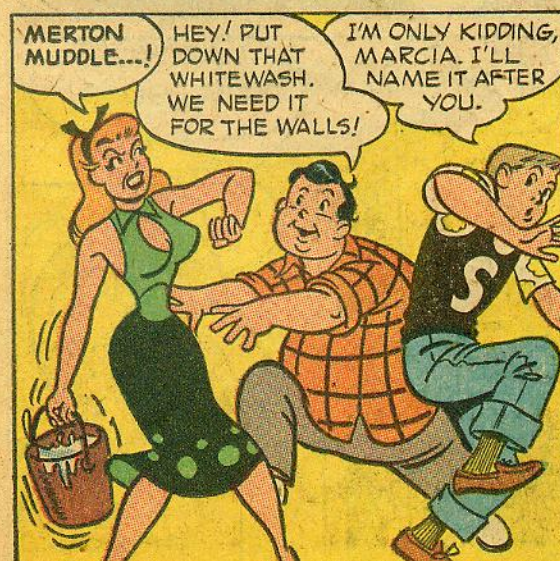
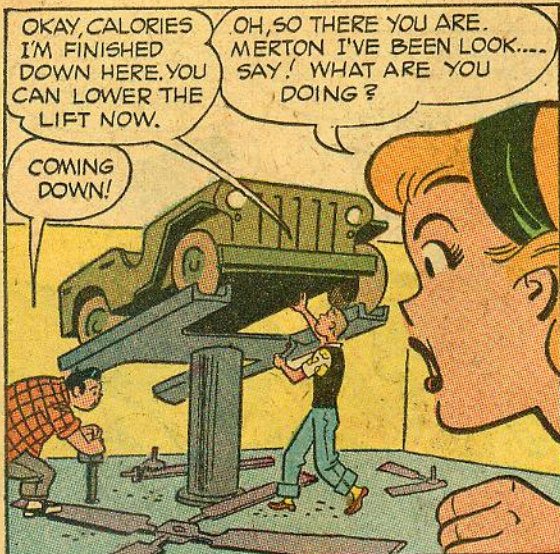
MERTON MUDDLE! YOU STAY OUT OF THIS!

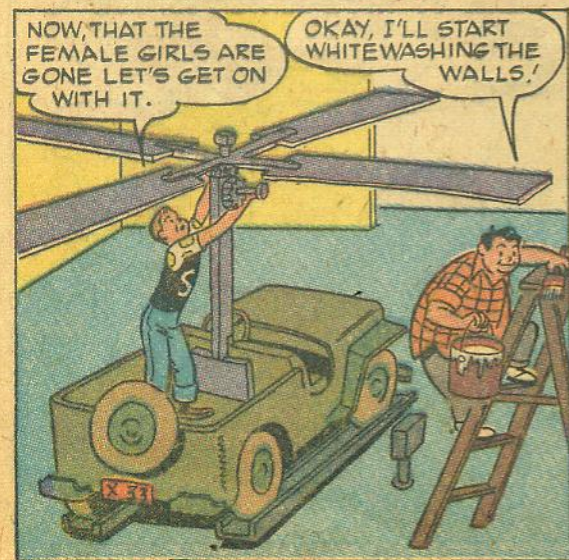
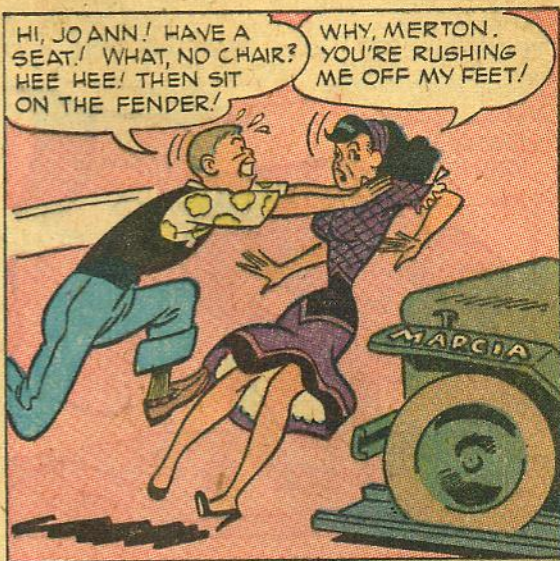
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!

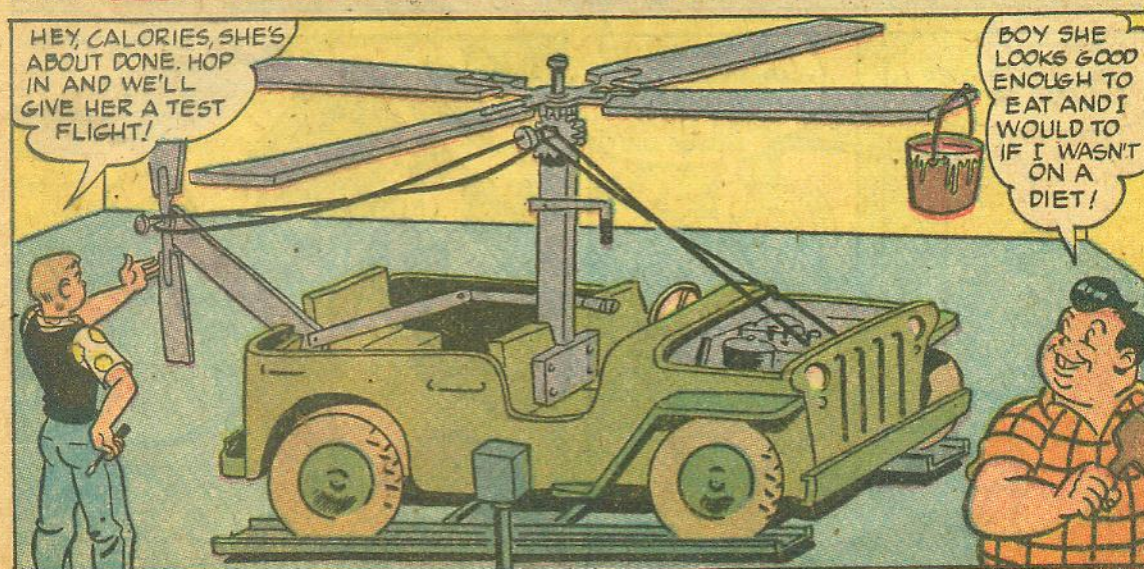
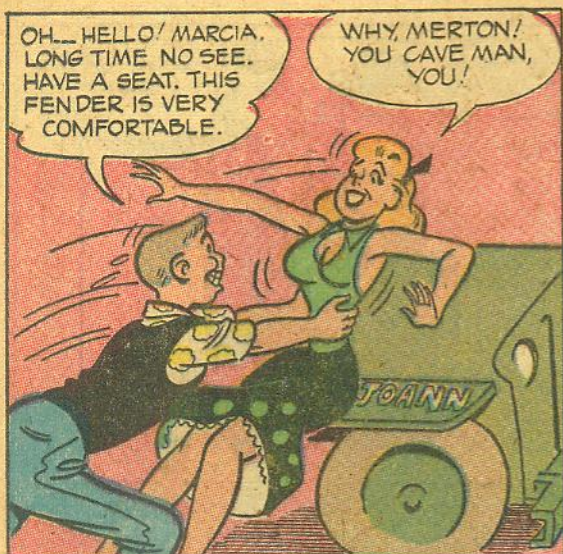
Gulp!

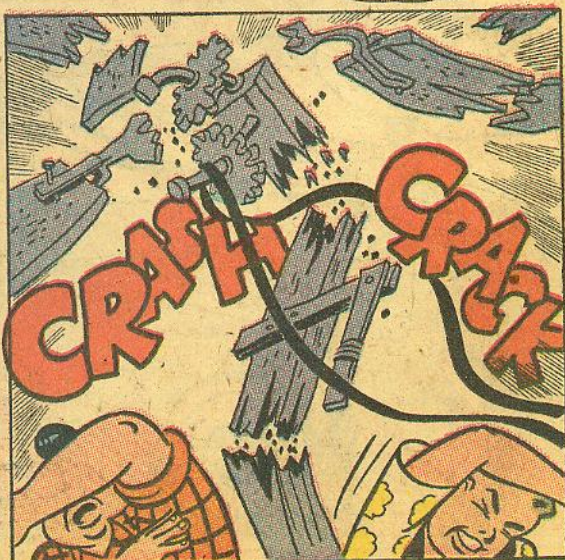
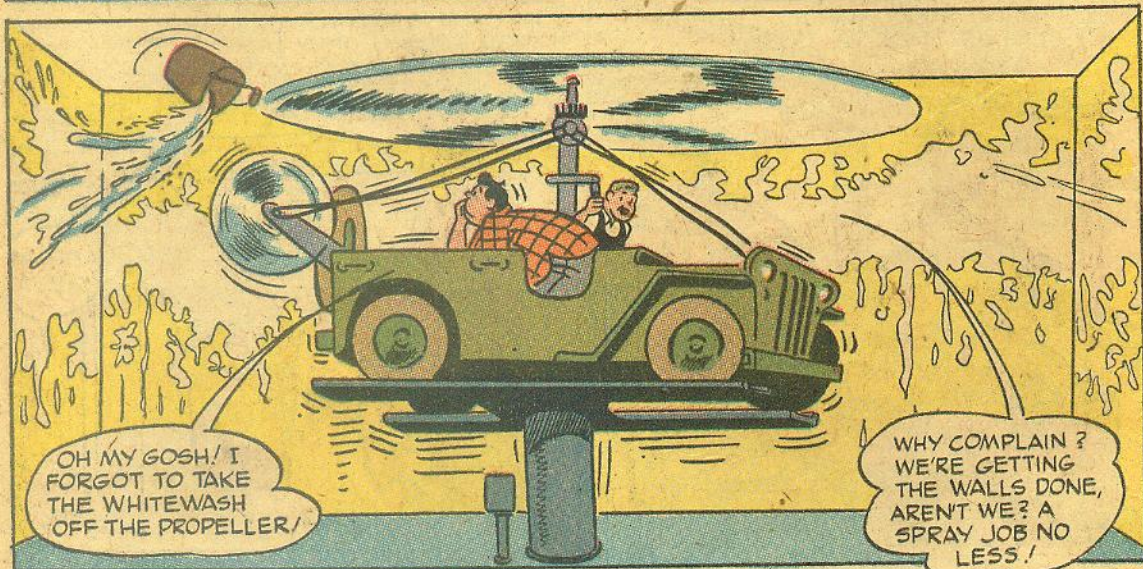
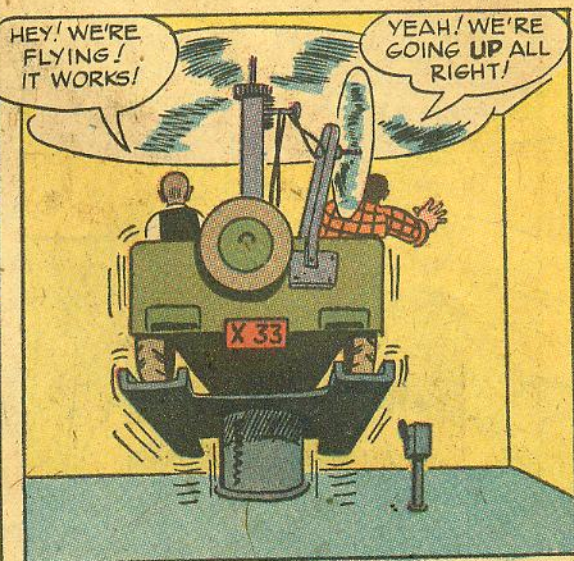


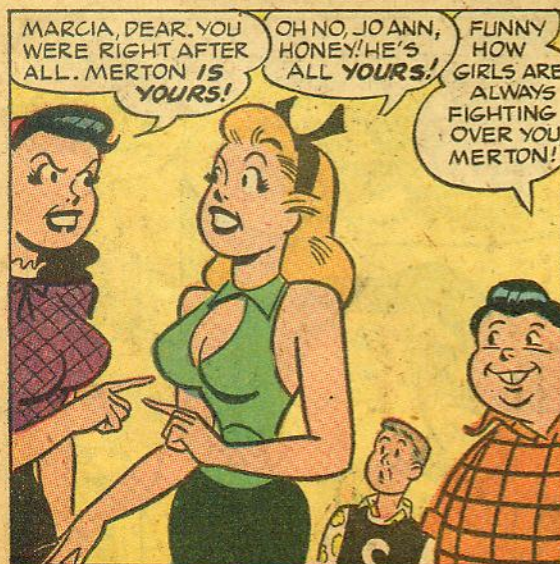
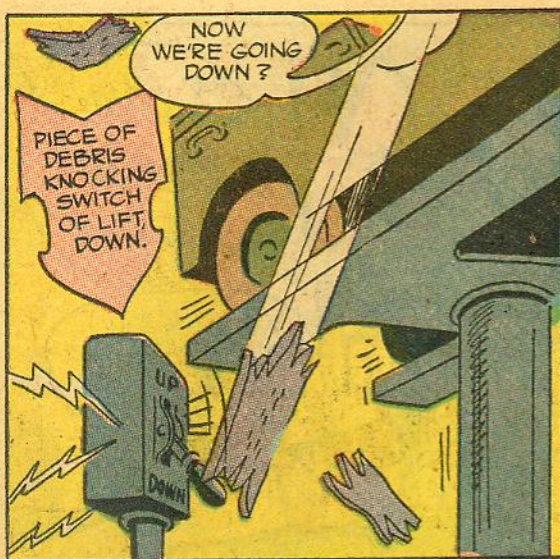










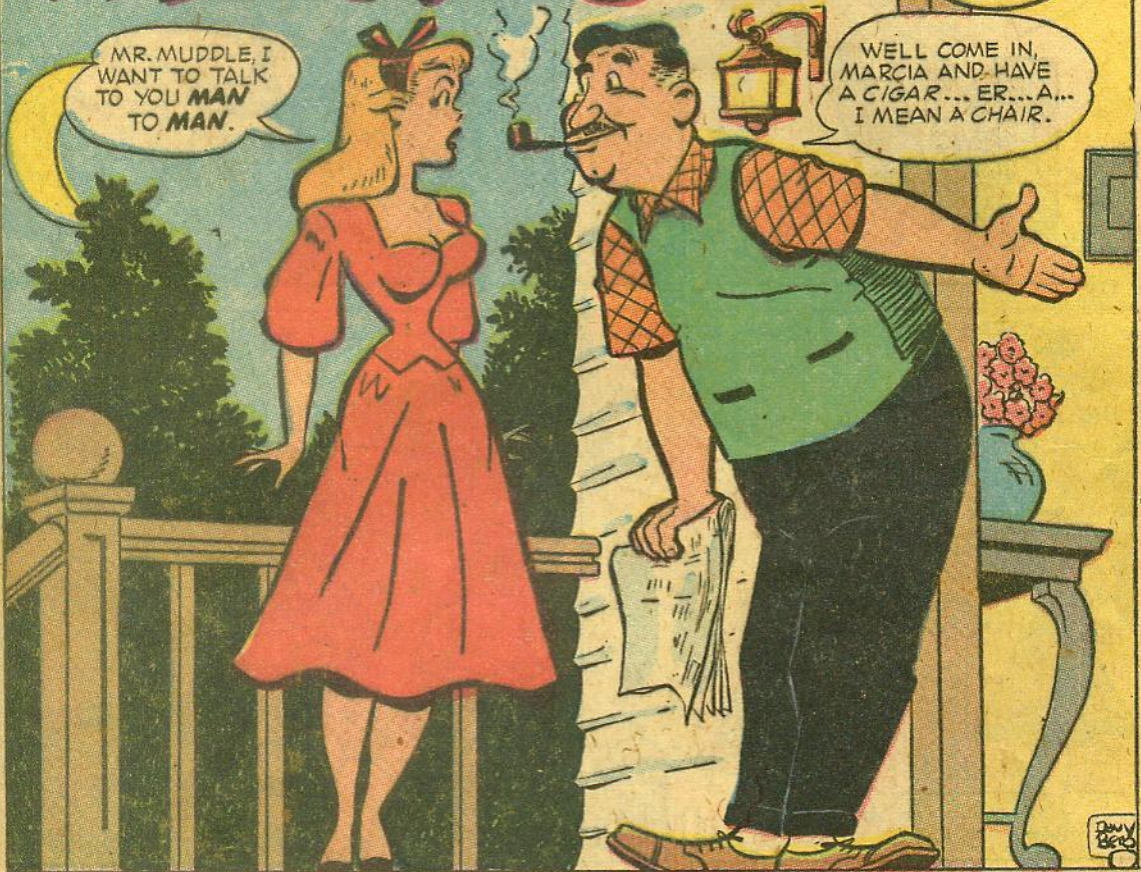


MERTON

"Love and let Love"

MR. MUDDLE, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU **MAN** TO **MAN**.

WE'LL COME IN, MARCIA AND HAVE A CIGAR... ER... A... I MEAN A CHAIR.

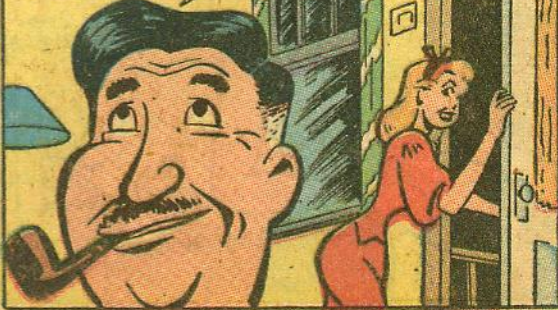


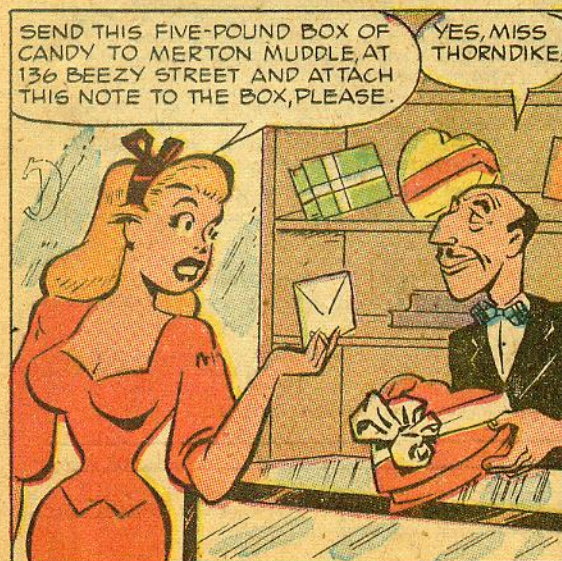
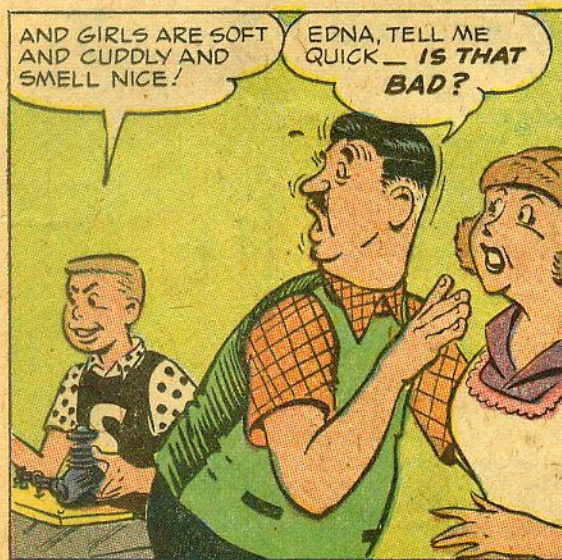
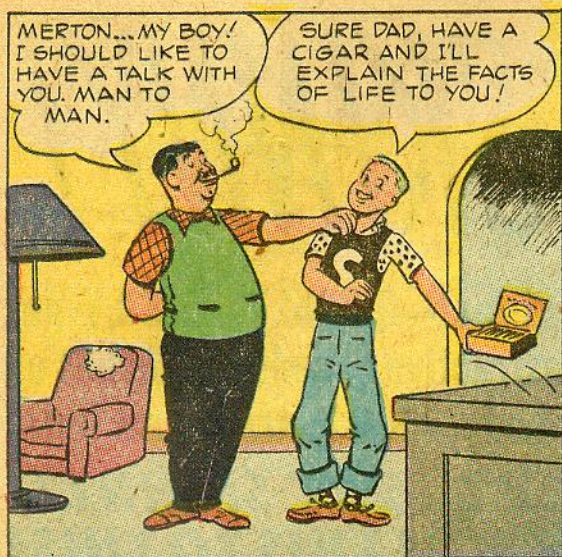
IT'S ABOUT MERTON. I HAVE AN AWFUL CRUSH ON HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO NOTICE ME. HE SEEMS TO PREFER JO ANN SWEET AND HIS GADGETS. I NEED YOUR HELP, MR. MUDDLE AND BECAUSE MY FATHER IS YOUR EMPLOYER DON'T LET THAT INFLUENCE YOU.

OH NO, BOSS... I MEAN MARCIA. I WON'T... FIRST OF ALL ABOUT JO ANN. I THINK MERTON LIKES HER AS A PAL, NOT AS A GAL. NOW ABOUT WINNING HIM OVER... YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT MAN.

BECAUSE TWENTY YEARS I WAS LIKE MERTON. AND THERE WAS A GIRL LIKE YOU AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT SHE DID. SHE TOOK DIRECT ACTION. **SHE** ROMANCED **ME**. SHE SENT ME **BOXES OF CANDY, FLOWERS** EVEN **SANG** TO ME UNDER MY WINDOW... AND...

SAY NO MORE, MR. MUDDLE I CAN TAKE A HINT... NIGHT NOW.





GAIN WEIGHT

stop
being

SKINNY!



Amazing New Way developed by modern medical science to put on weight on lean bodies. **Guaranteed** to give you up to an **extra pound a day!** Or your money back! Why should you dread going to parties and socials, simply because you look scrawny and spindly? Why ever feel self-conscious about your body again? If you're **underweight** . . . or just a little on the thin side, due to faulty appetite, or bad dietary habits, you can **put on up to a pound a day of attractive weight** without exercise . . . dangerous drugs . . . or special diet . . . and more quickly, more easily than you ever dreamed possible . . . with **MORE-WATE**. **MORE-WATE** contains no dangerous drugs . . . you eat it like candy! Yet . . . if you were to have this same prescription compounded to your order, it would cost you many times more. However, through this introductory offer, you can obtain **quick-acting MORE-WATE** tablets . . . a 30 day supply for only \$2.98, with an absolute money-back guarantee! Yes, try **MORE-WATE** for **TEN DAYS** . . . and if not entirely delighted with weight gained, return the unused supply for full refund! You've nothing to lose . . . and **weight to gain!** Act now! Stop being the guy or the gal that everyone calls "skinny." Stop being the guy or the gal who dreads summer and going to parties and socials because it means everyone will enjoy themselves and you won't. Don't be a wallflower, because you have a figure like a broomstick! **Gain more weight!**

IN JUST 24 HOURS START GAINING WEIGHT

The fast acting **MORE-WATE** tablets are **unconditionally guaranteed** to put on weight . . . or it doesn't cost you a penny! **MORE-WATE** is a delicious, full strength, fast acting tablet . . . that combines not just one . . . or two . . . but 4 of the most amazing aids for **gaining weight** known to medical science. **MORE-WATE** is not a liquid . . . not a powder. It's a delicious, pleasant-tasting tablet! It contains vitamin B-12 . . . the amazing red vitamin doctors give many **underweight** patients in hospitals . . . It contains Iron that helps correct iron deficiency, anemia and builds rich, red blood. It contains appetite-building vitamin B-1 . . . and it contains nutritious easily assimilated malt, the amazing ingredient that helps your body turn much of the food you eat into **well rounded flesh** instead of being wasted. That's the **secret of putting on weight**. Now you can help your food to add new pounds to your arms, chest, hips, thighs, and legs. Now you don't have to be skinny . . . or afraid to be seen socially and be ashamed of your figure! You must achieve the figure you want . . . or don't pay anything! Act now!

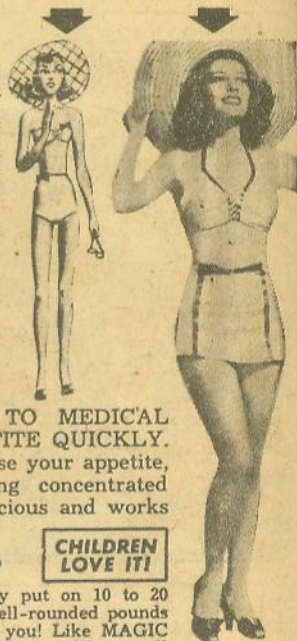
Now at last—**QUICKLY—EASILY** put firm, attractive pounds and inches on your body, chest, arms and legs.

**DON'T STAY SKINNY!
GO FROM THIS TO THIS!**

or your money back!

MORE WATE is the newest discovery of medical science—entirely safe! Not a drug—not a medicine . . . Instead, a delicious weight-adding tablet that helps your body build new pounds of **HEALTHY, ATTRACTIVE** body weight! You gain **SOLID** good-looking flesh **AUTOMATICALLY** wherever you need it—on face, neck, bust, arms, legs, ankles, etc. (all over!)

START GAINING WEIGHT in 24 HOURS! Amazing new **MORE-WATE** puts on weight **FASTER** THAN ANYTHING KNOWN TO MEDICAL SCIENCE! If you **LOSE APPETITE QUICKLY**. . . If you fill up at meals and lose your appetite, take **MORE-WATE**, the amazing concentrated fast acting tablet that tastes delicious and works **weight-gaining** wonders.



CHILDREN LOVE IT!

We don't want
SKINNY
on our team!



WHY BE SKINNY?

Now you can quickly put on 10 to 20 pounds or more of well-rounded pounds so fast it will amaze you! Like **MAGIC** skinny, broom-stick figures fill out all over the body into a beautiful new "LOOK" that wins popularity! **MORE-WATE** promotes appetite, new pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality. **DON'T BE SKINNY! SEND FOR MORE-WATE** delicious tasting, fast acting tablets TODAY!

TEST AT OUR RISK

Mail the coupon below for your generous supply of **MORE-WATE**! Only \$2.98 for full generous supply or \$6 for the triple generous large economy size on the guarantee if the first package doesn't increase your weight to your satisfaction, return the empty package for full money-back refund. **MAIL THE COUPON NOW! CHILDREN—get mom or dad to order for you!**

MAIL THIS NO-RISK COUPON TODAY!

MORE-WATE CO., Dept. SW-8

62 West 47th Street New York 36, N. Y.

- ☐ SEND ONE large generous supply of **MORE-WATE**. I enclose \$2.98 cash, check or M.O. on **GUARANTEE** I must be delighted with first package or money-back when I return empty package. (I save up to 90c by sending payment with order.)
- ☐ CHECK HERE IF YOU WANT 3 for \$6. (Save \$3.)

Name.....

Address.....

City.....Zone.....State.....

SENT ON APPROVAL — MAKE AMAZING 10-DAY TEST

American Legion May Ad No. 59

HI-POWER BINOCULARS



SEE UP TO 18 MILES

Powerful folding Opera Glasses
fit into pocket or purse. Center
eye piece adjustment. Worth many
times low introductory price. Com-
parable to models selling for \$4.95.

NOW ONLY

50¢

Postpaid.
Limit 2
to a customer.

BRUCE SALES CO., Dept. 1W-9
62 W. 47th Street, New York 36, N.Y. Room 206
Please send me Hi-Power Binoculars.

☐ 1 for 50¢ ☐ 2 for \$1.00.
Limit 2 to a customer.

I enclose: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order
Sorry, No C.O.D.'s.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

TOY BONANZA

100 TOY SOLDIERS — \$1

100 piece fighter set includes: soldiers, tanks, trucks, jeeps, battle ships, bombers, jet planes, etc. Designed to scale up to 4 1/2", in solid plastic. ONLY \$1.00 POSTPAID.

100 TOY PIRATES — \$1

100 piece pirate set includes pirates, diggers, swordsmen, pirate ships, cannon, etc. Each piece made to scale of solid plastic, individual bases. ONLY \$1.00 POSTPAID.

100 COWBOYS AND INDIANS — \$1

A complete Rodeo of 100 plastic toys, each a full 2" high. In a colorful gift box that turns into a fenced corral and Indian Teepee. ONLY \$1.00 POSTPAID.

SPACE GUN "TATER SHOOTER" — \$1

A completely harmless space gun that works by compressed air and shoots potato pellets as far as 50 feet — with more than 300 shots from a single potato. Safe, Harmless, Fun! ONLY \$1.00 POSTPAID.

FASCINATING ANT FARM — \$2.98

Kids, have your own Ant Farm with real LIVE ANTS. Made of unbreakable clear plastic that enables you to see every move the ants make. Large 6"x9" size, escape-proof, complete with sand and ants. ONLY \$2.98 POSTPAID.

BIG GAME WILD ANIMAL TROPHIES \$2.98

Choose an amazing life-like Royal Bengal Tiger, Black Panther, or African Leopard! Expertly reproduced in a skin-like pliable plastic in full natural color, with mahogany shield. ONLY \$2.98 EACH POSTPAID.

MODERN TOY COMPANY — Dept. 1W-9

62 West 47th St., Rm. 206 New York 36, N.Y. NO C.O.D's
Please rush the following toys:

☐ 100 Toy Soldiers \$1 ☐ 100 Cowboys & Indians \$1 ☐ Ant Farm \$2.98
☐ 100 Toy Pirates \$1 ☐ Space Gun \$1 ☐ Trophies \$2.98

Enclosed is \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

(Please Print Plainly)

Outside U.S.A. Please add 25¢ to each item for postage and handling.

100 Toy Pirates \$1.00

SPACE GUN

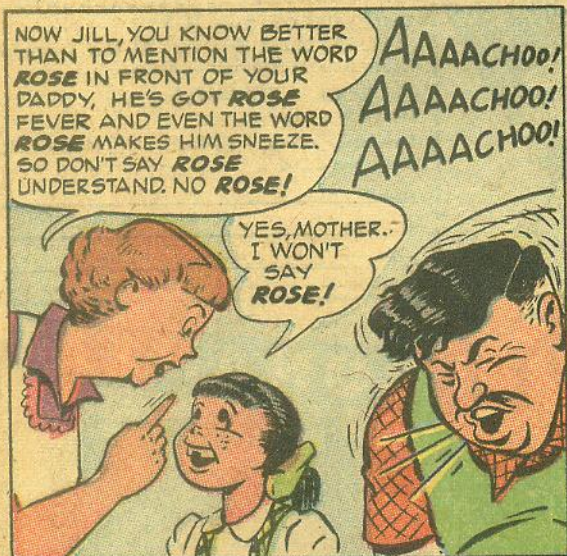


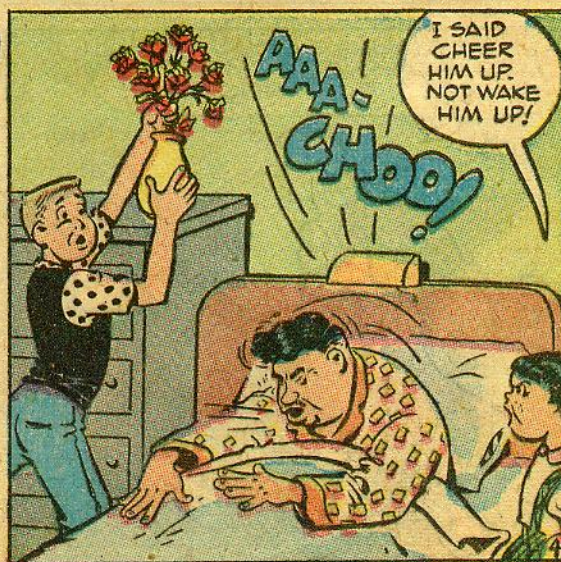
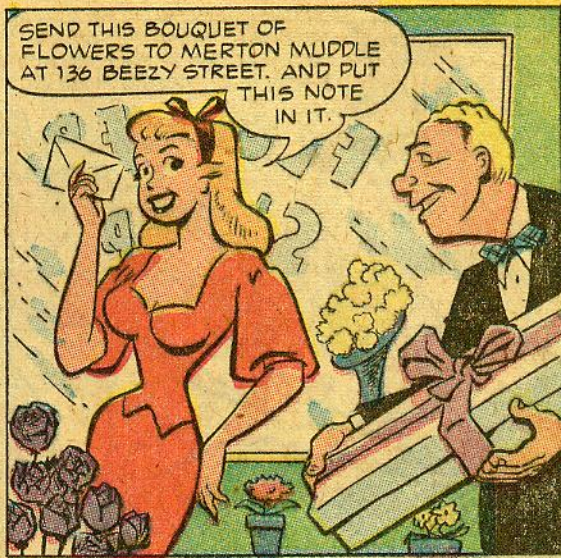
TATER SHOOTER

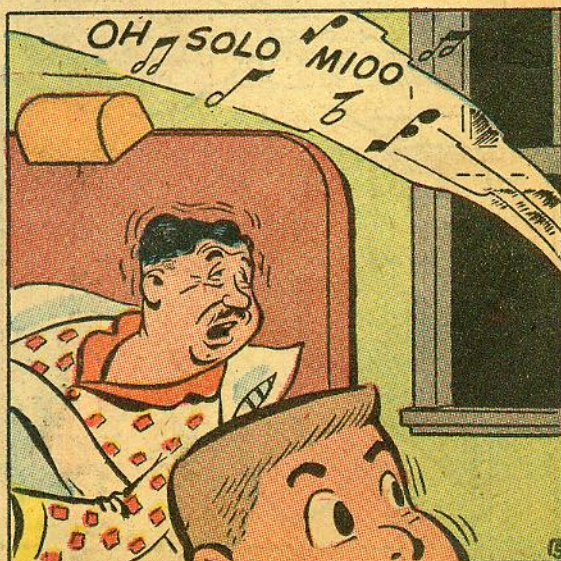
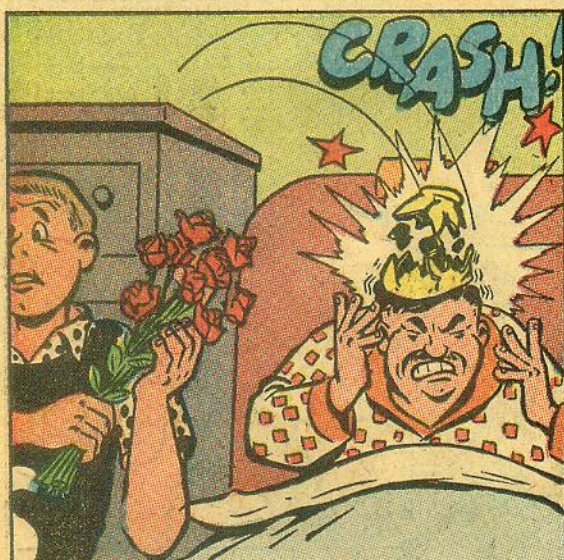
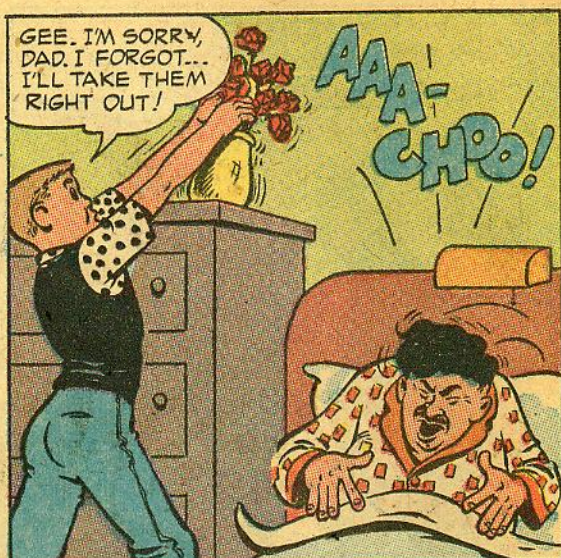
100 Toy Soldiers \$1.00

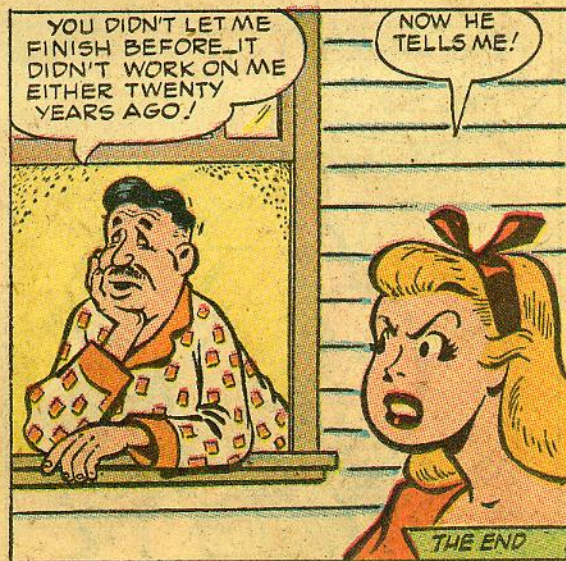
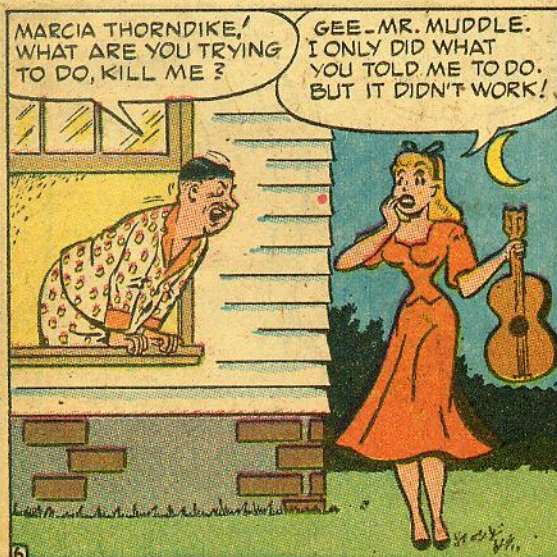
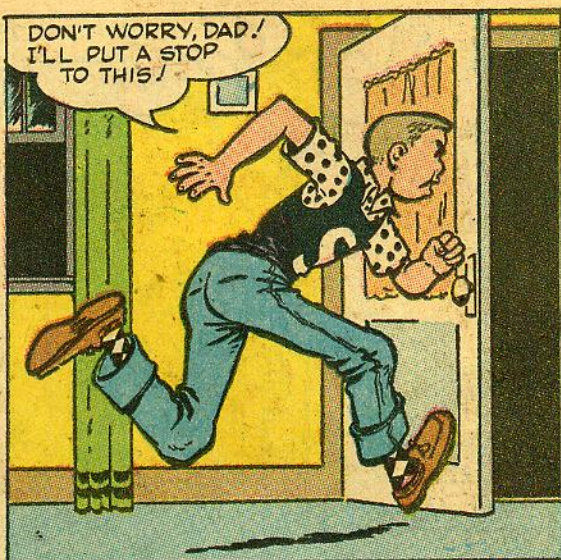
100 Cowboys & Indians \$1











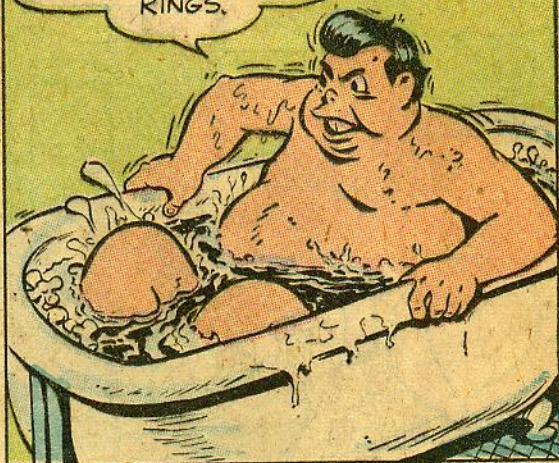
THE END

Calories Casey

RRING!



WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT.
EVERYTIME I'M TAKING
A BATH, THE PHONE
RINGS.



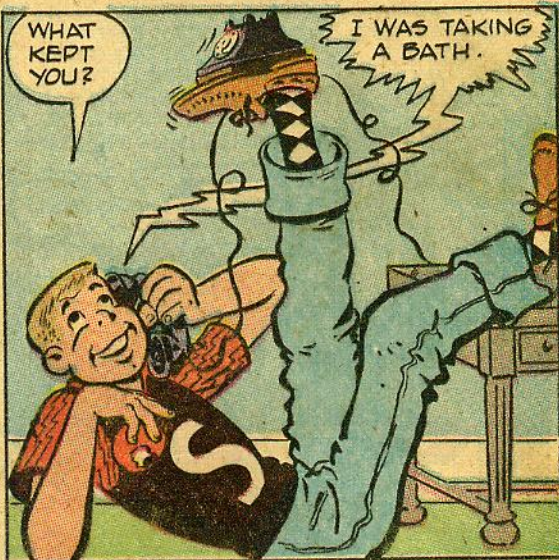
HI, CALORIES.
THIS IS MERTON.

OH, HI!
SORRY I TOOK
SO LONG.



WHAT
KEPT
YOU?

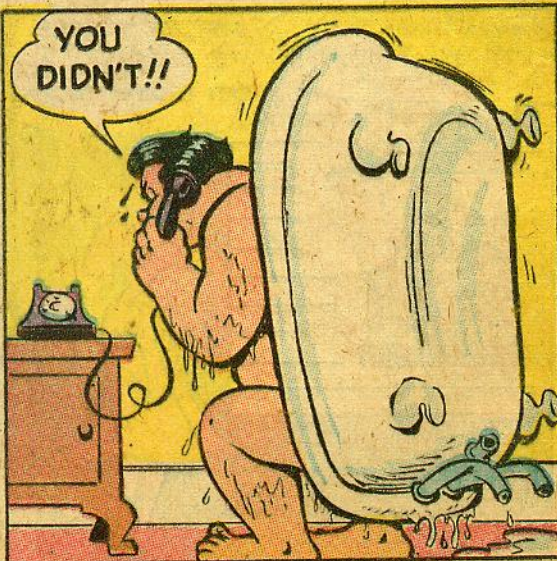
I WAS TAKING
A BATH.



GEE, I'M SORRY.
I HOPE I DIDN'T
GET YOU OUT OF
THE TUB!



YOU
DIDN'T!!



Merton

"LOVELY
WEATHER
FOR
DUCTS"

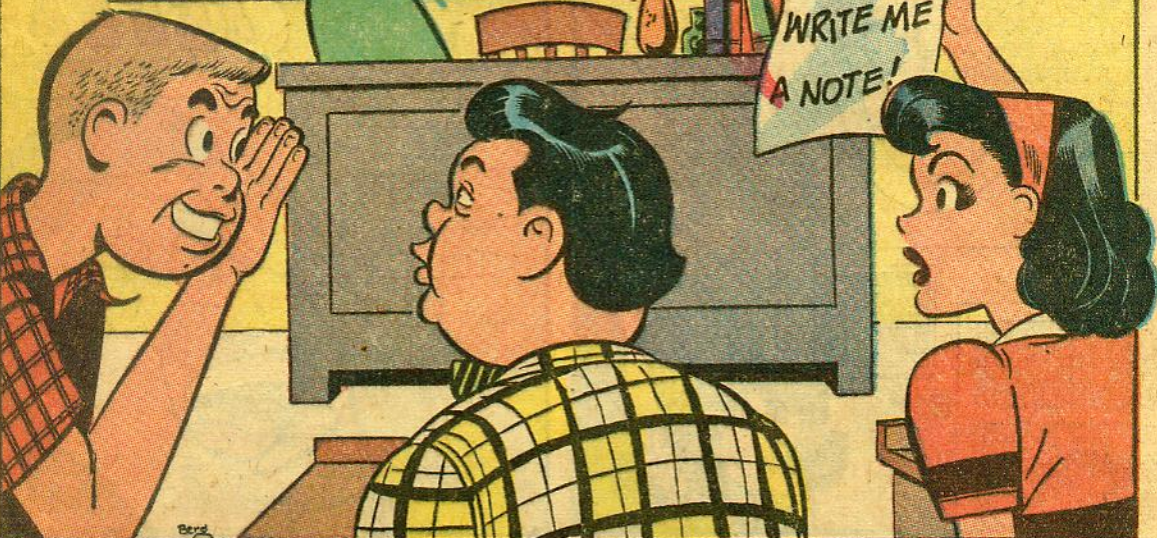
P-PSST-HEY!
JO ANN-JO ANN
SWEET-PSST!

$$A = \frac{1}{2}$$

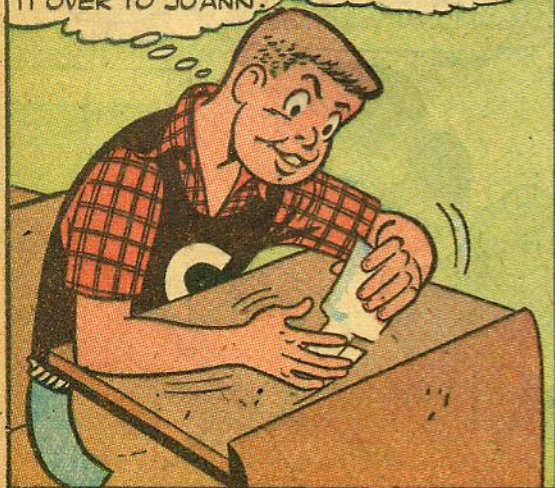
$$289 \div 75 =$$

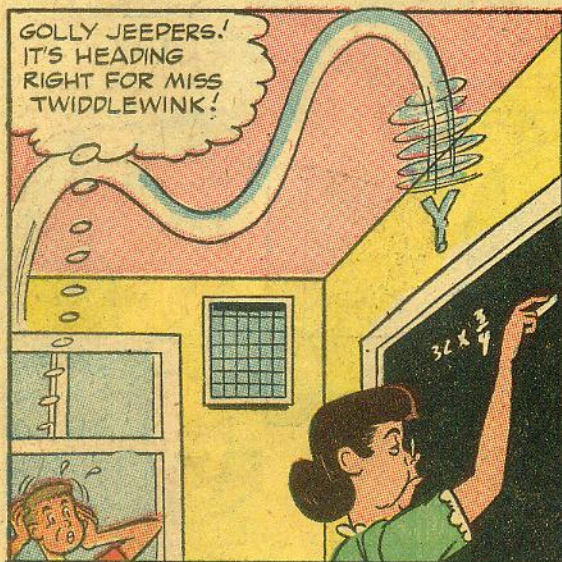
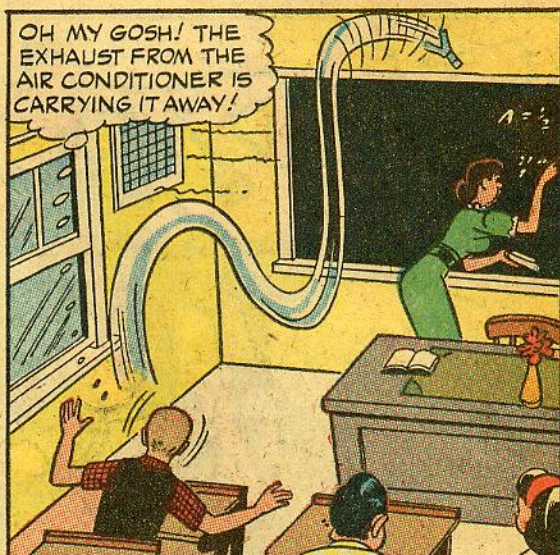
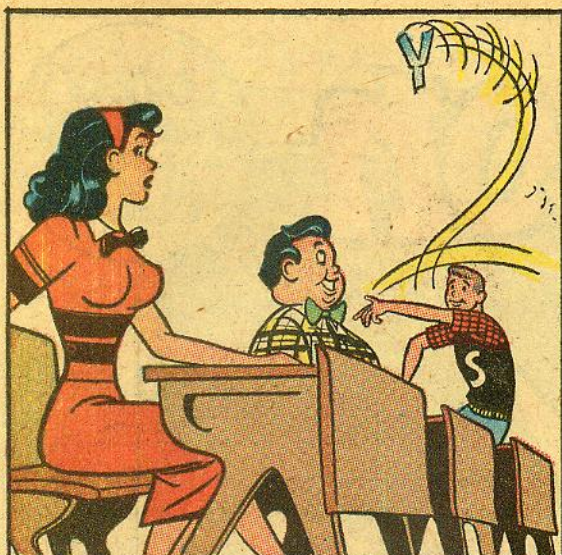
$$\frac{27}{x} +$$

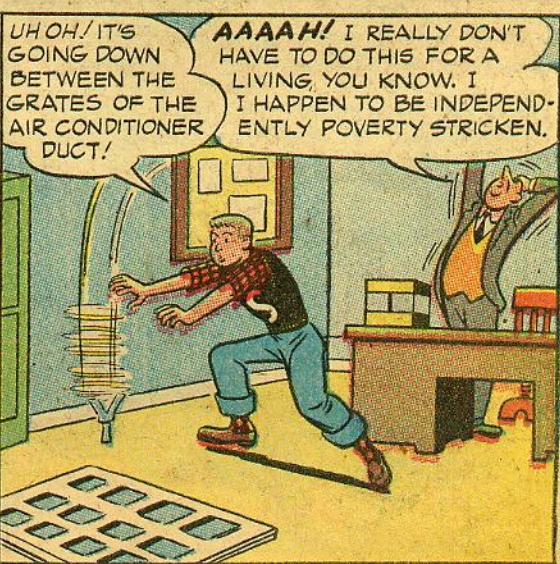
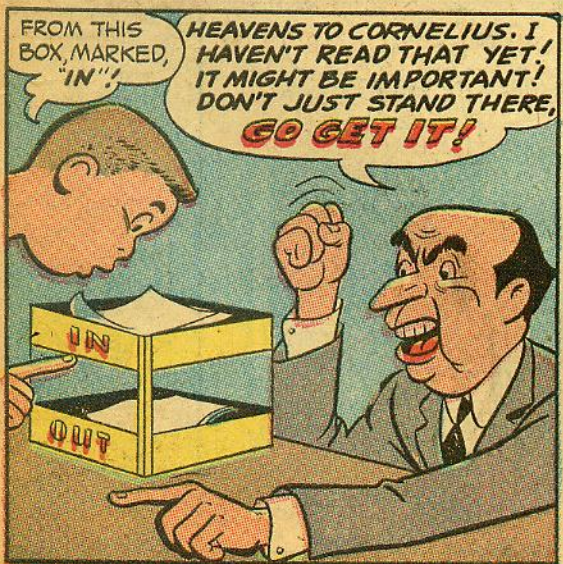
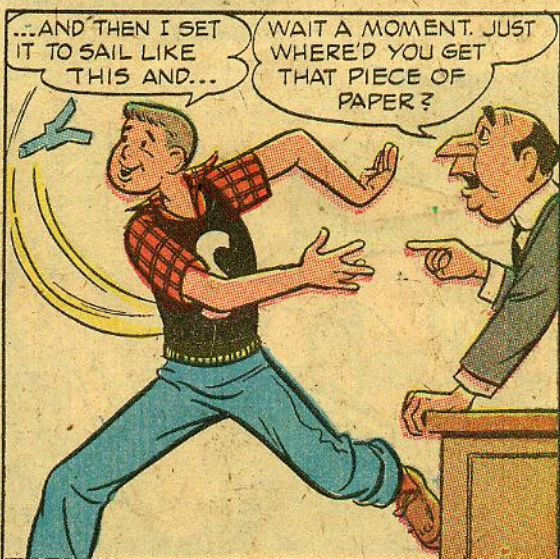
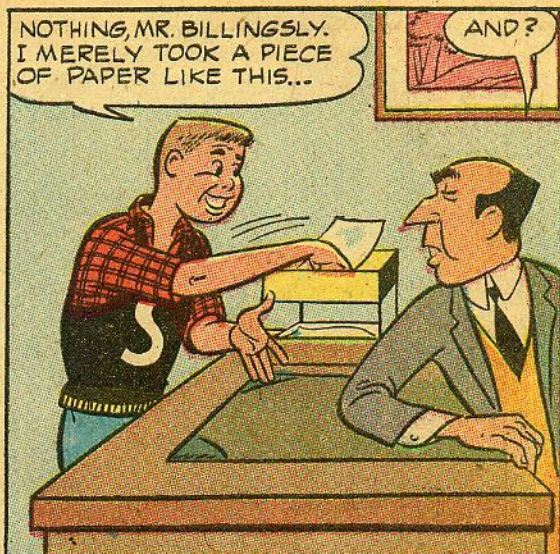
CANT HEAR
YOU
WRITE ME
A NOTE!

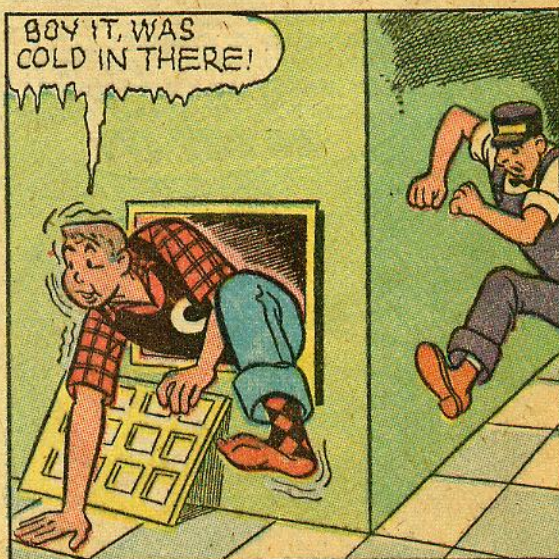
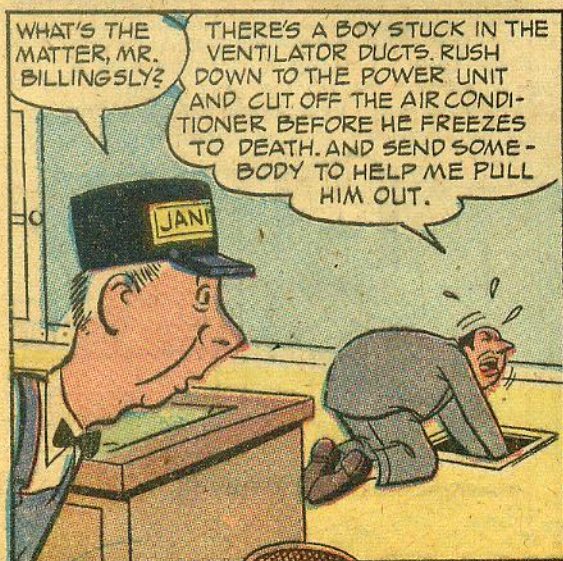
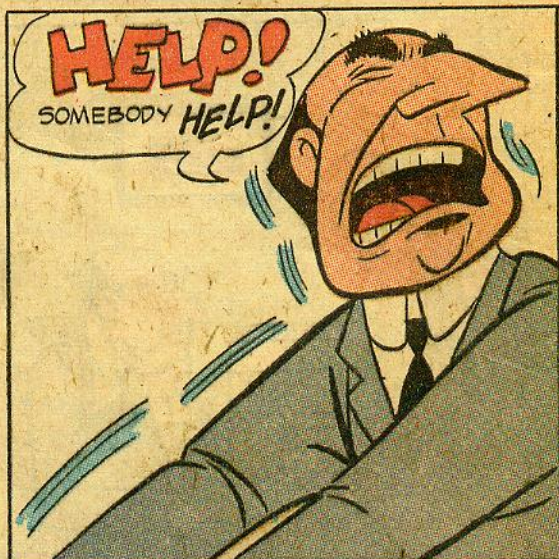


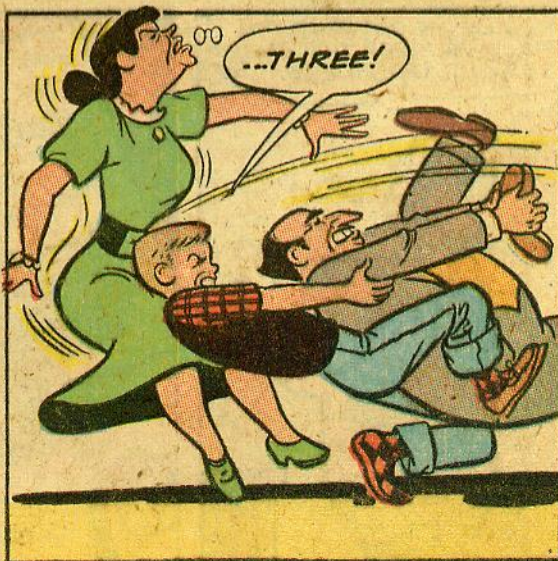
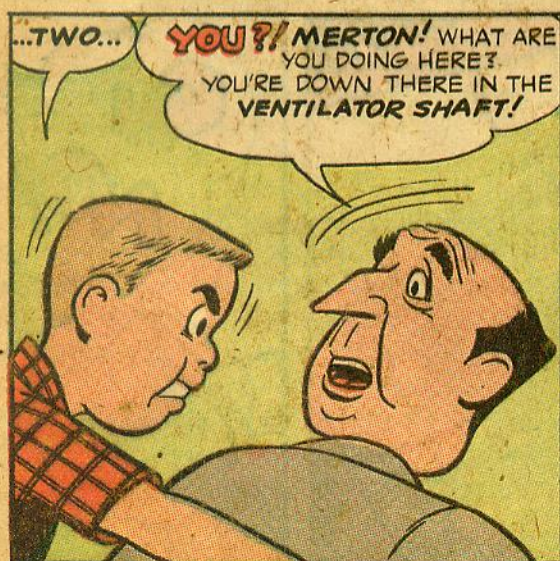
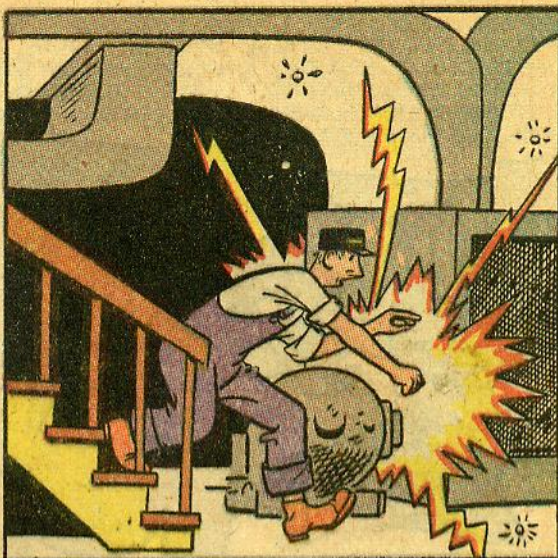
I KNOW WHAT! I'LL MAKE A PAPER
HELICOPTER, WRITE THE NOTE AND FLY
IT OVER TO JOANN!

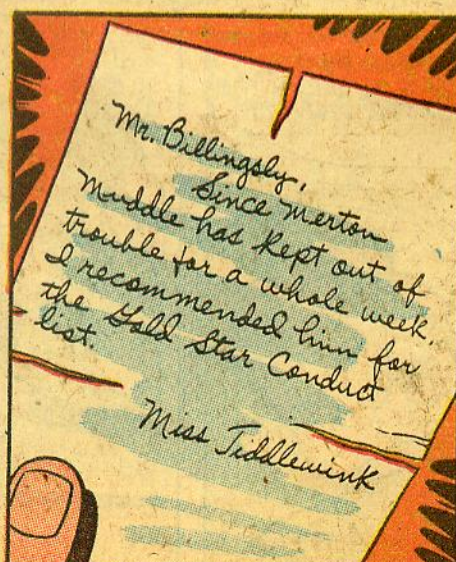
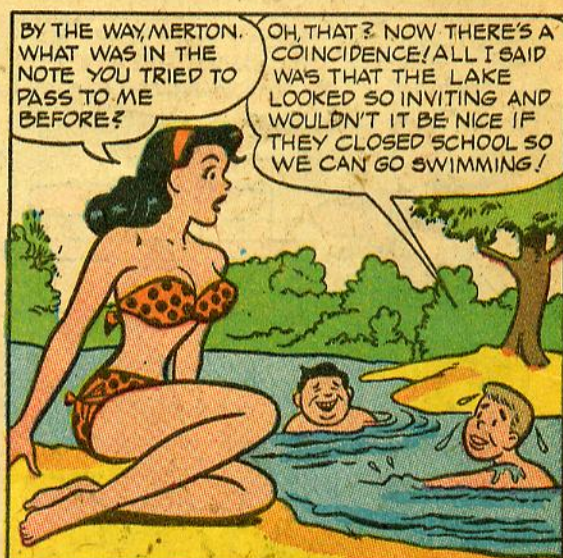
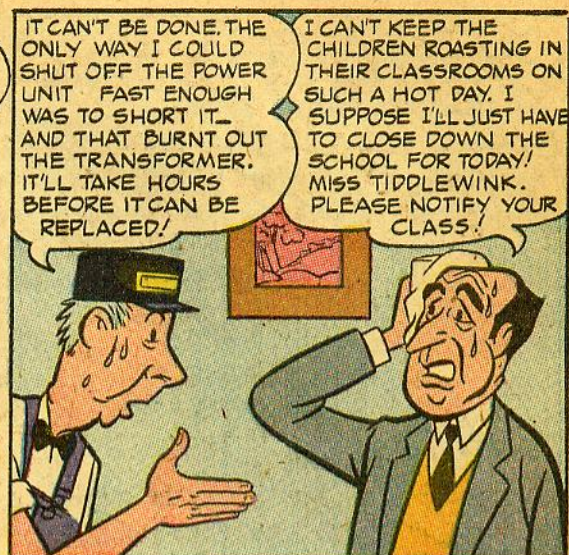
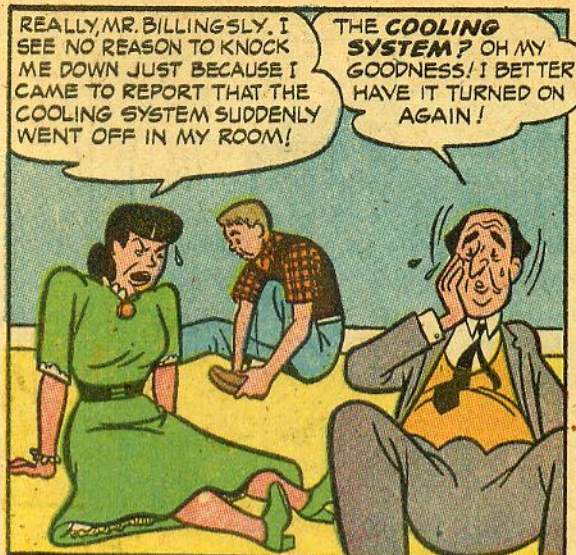












A QUIET SATURDAY NIGHT

WHOLE TROUBLE is my dad's lungs are too powerful. When he begins yelling, pictures fall off walls all over town—and then everybody knows he's lecturing me again. A fellow doesn't mind being lectured to every once in a while—but I sure wish dad could turn down his volume.

Take last Saturday afternoon. All I did was ask dad if I could have some dough to take my bike to the repairman.

"WHAT?" yelled dad.

"Money," I said. "You know—the crinkly stuff you get in your pay envelope. You know—that little brown envelope mother never lets you open yourself. If you could spare some, I'd be very grateful. After all with the brake in that condition, my bike's a hazard to every old lady in town."

"Merton Muddle," yelled dad. "All week long you smell up the house with your chemistry experiments. Every other day you come up with a new crazy invention—and NOW when your bike needs a little fixing, do you mean to say you have to take it to a repairman? Why, when I was a boy—"

I knew that *'when I was a boy'* routine. Once he got started on that, it would be Monday morning before he was thru—and he'd have a sore throat and I'd have a broken eardrum.

So I gave up gracefully. "I'll do it myself," I said, "and bill you later."

Dad was still spluttering when I went out to the garage and began working on the bike. A few quick turns with the pliers, and the brake-chock was off. But before I could do anything else, mom called me to the phone.

Mom glared as I picked up the phone, and I noticed that my hands were still smeared with grease. "Merton Muddle speaking," I said, wiping one hand on a curtain, "inventor extraordinary."

"Hey Merton—"

It was Calories Casey talking. And I could tell by the sob in his voice that something had gone wrong.

"Merton, I can't get my dad's car for tonight!"

I heard those words—and my heart sank

lower than a crushed straw at the bottom of an ice cream soda. Calories and I had a big date coming up. The dance was all the way over at Lakeview High. We'd promised the girls we'd call for them in a car. If we showed up on foot, it would be worse than treason.

"Merton—will YOU ask YOUR dad?"

I swallowed twice, gulped: "yes," and hung up.

Dad was on the parlor couch, his head under a tented newspaper, when I found him. Every time he snored, the **WEATHER FORECAST** fluttered. "Fair and warmer," said the forecast. "No wind."

I guess I should've let dad sleep a little longer—but gosh, that date was important. I pulled off the newspaper and tapped him on the chest. And he let out a blast that shook the windows.

"WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?!"

"Just your car, dad. O.K. if I use the car tonight?"

I got just what I'd expected—a lecture about when he was a boy. There hadn't even been a car in the family... And besides, the car was HIS car. Did HE ever ask me for MY bike? His last words were, "Absolutely not!" Only the way he said them, they sounded stronger than that.

Just then mom ran into the room. She ran right over to dad and shook him by the shoulders. "Don't tell me you've forgotten all about the masquerade party we're going to tonight," she said. "They're giving a lovely prize for the best costumes, and I'd do anything to win that prize."

Dad groaned. "What're we going as this time?" he asked weakly.

Mom really loved masquerade parties. She was very serious about them, and spent lots of time dreaming up costumes. Last year, she and dad had gone as Samson and Delilah. And the year before as Napoleon and Josephine.

"Tonight," she said dreamily, "I'll be dressed as a cute little girl, and you as a little boy. You'll wear velvet shorts and an Eaton collar. And your old patent leather dancing slippers."

Before dad could groan again, mom had hustled him off to get dressed.

As you know by now, I am a bit of an inventive genius. My mind works so fast, that on tests I have been known to come up with the wrong answer before the teacher wrote the question on the board. And what mom had just said, had set my little old brain whizzing faster than an eggbeater...

I followed mom into the kitchen. There I gave her, absolutely free of charge, a sure-fire way of making a splash entrance at the masquerade party. Mom's eyes lit up as she listened—and she ran right off to tell dad. A few minutes later, dad walked sheepishly toward me.

"Merton," he said, "your mother wants me to ride her to the party on the handlebar of your bike."

"Gosh, dad," I said, "I'd love to lend you the bike. But remember what you just said about the car being yours and the bike being mine..."

After making a face and some choking noises, dad gave me the keys to the car.

* * * * *

It was dark out now. Jo Ann was sitting next to me in the front of the car, and Marcia was with Calories in the back. We were cruising along slowly, giving everybody a chance to see us—when all of a sudden Calories yelled, "What's THAT?"

I took a quick look, then grinned. Dad, his hairy legs pumping hard, was riding mom on the handlebar of my bike.

"He doesn't look too steady," said Jo Ann. "I hope he has no trouble on Pike's Hill."

"Oh," I began to say, "there's nothing to worry about—" but then I gulped.

I'd just remembered—the brake-chock was off the bike! Calories had called me just as I had uncrewed it, and I'd forgotten to put it back on again. Pike's Hill was steep—and

without brakes, mom and dad would crash up for sure, maybe be killed...

"Merton, what's the matter? You're white as a ghost!" cried Jo Ann.

I was scared, but my inventor's brain was whizzing again. A second later I stepped hard on the gas. The car lurched forward. We got to the bottom of Pike's Hill in two seconds flat.

The road curved at the bottom. In back of the curve was the Fendrick Farm. Off to the right, was Malone's Drug Store. There was a big haystack behind the curve, but in front of the haystack was a fence. If dad hit that fence, he and mom would be goners for sure.

I parked the car in front of the fence, and dragged Calories with me into Malone's. We knocked over only two people while pulling the duckboard out from behind the soda counter. Fast as we could, we leaned the duckboard against the car.

Dad and mom were in sight now. The bike was wobbling, picking up speed. Mom was screaming. Inside our car, Jo Ann and Marcia were whimpering with fright.

But then the bike hit the duckboard, climbed right up and sailed over the car, landing with all hands safe right in the soft plump haystack...

You'd think a father would appreciate genius in a son—wouldn't you?

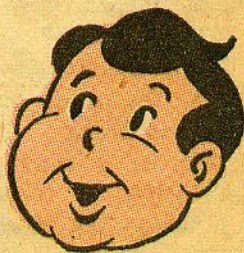
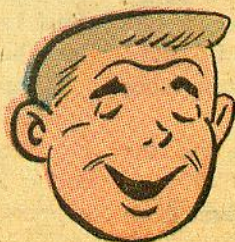
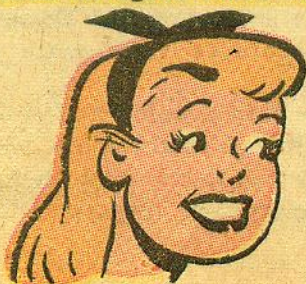
Well, at first dad did. He picked himself and mother up from the hay, and congratulated me on one of the slickest pieces of fast thinking he'd ever been privileged to witness.

But when I explained all the details, mentioning casually the brake-chock I'd forgotten to replace—dad's lungs began working again.

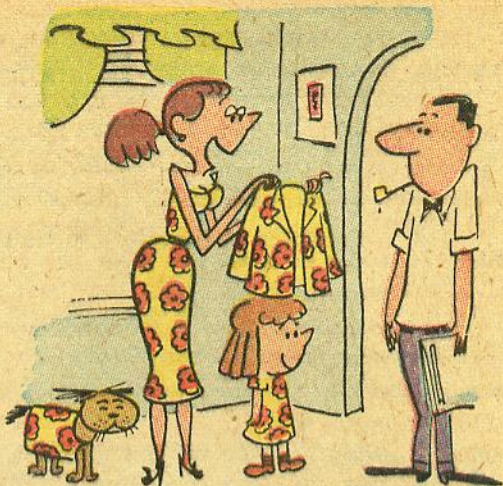
He chased me halfway thru town, yelling so loud that the street lamps kept swaying.

If Officer Tulliver hadn't pulled him in for disturbing the police, he might've been chasing me yet.

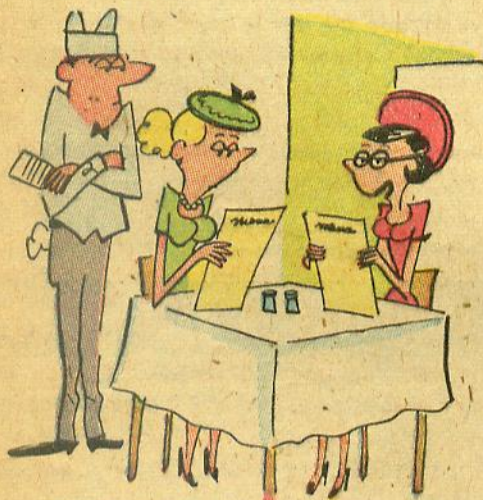
As it was, we were only twenty-seven minutes late for the dance.



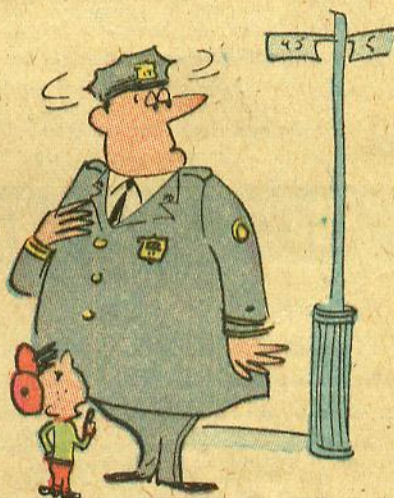
ALL IN FUN



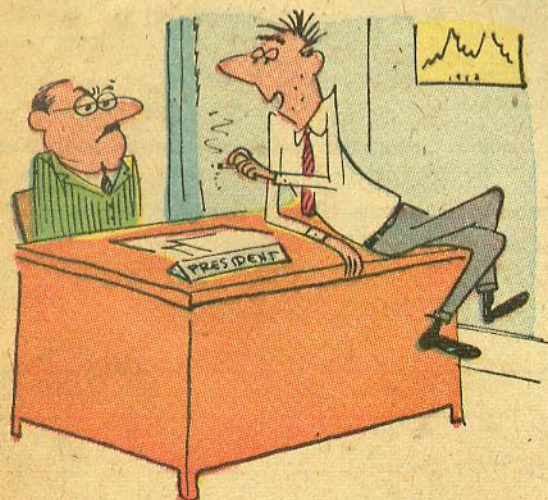
"...AND I HAD ENOUGH LEFT OVER
TO MAKE YOU THIS JACKET!"



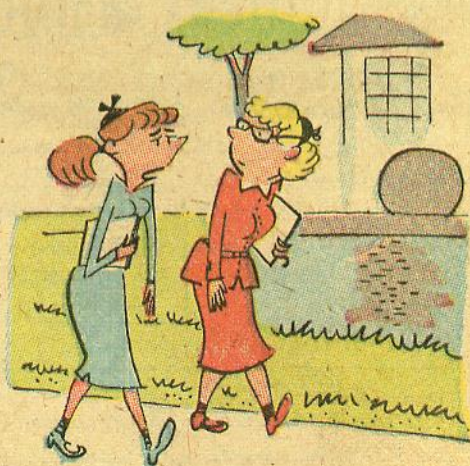
"TOMATO AND LETTUCE
SANDWICH SOUNDS GOOD.
WHAT'S IN IT?"



'HANDS UP!'



"SO I WAS WONDERING...
HOW COME NO RAISE?"



"HE DIDN'T INSULT ME EVEN
ONCE ALL DAY!"

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